



California Environmental Protection Agency

NEWS RELEASE

State Water Resources Control Board

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For Immediate Release

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Ocean Plan Review Hearing to be Held in Monterey

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) will hold a public hearing in Monterey as part of its triennial review of the Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California, commonly called the Ocean Plan. The hearing will take place Friday, October 9, 1998, at 11 a.m., at the Monterey City Council Chambers, corner of Madison and Pacific avenues in Monterey.

SWRCB member Marc Del Piero, a former Monterey County Supervisor, will preside as the hearing officer during the proceedings.

Matters up for discussion include 28 issues raised in previous reviews, and five new issues:

1. Possible development of controls for discharges of ship ballast water to prevent the introduction of nonindigenous marine forms;
2. Review of chemical water quality objectives established for protection of aquatic life and human health;
3. Review of standard monitoring procedures related to bacterial standards;
4. Review of the list of critical life stage test protocols used to measure compliance with the chronic toxicity water quality objective, and;
5. Clarification of terminology in the Ocean Plan.

Anyone wishing to comment on any germane Ocean Plan issue may do so at the hearing, or may submit their comments in writing to the SWRCB's Division of Water Quality by November 9, 1998. All written or verbal comments will be considered for inclusion in the final list of Ocean Plan review issues.

Two other public hearings have already been held in Sacramento and Irvine.

BACKGROUND:

First adopted in 1972, the Ocean Plan has been revised five times. The Plan establishes water quality objectives to ensure that beneficial uses of the state's coastal waters are maintained.

Based on these water quality objectives, effluent limits are established for waste discharge into coastal waters.

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The three hearings this year mark the beginning of the next triennial comment period. The SWRCB requests comments on beneficial uses, water quality objectives and any other portion of the Ocean Plan in need of revision. While no decisions will be made at these hearings, the Board will hear testimony on any part of the Plan.

SWRCB staff has prepared a summary report discussing the five issues listed above in addition to the 28 issues remaining from the previous review. Those wishing to comment on the above issues or any other issue relevant to the Ocean Plan should submit written comments (preferably in electronic form) to the SWRCB's Division of Water Quality by 5 p.m. November 9, 1998. All comments received by that date will be considered for inclusion in a final list of Ocean Plan issues.

Interested parties should submit written comments to Dr. Francis H. Palmer, SWRCB, Division of Water Quality, P.O. Box 944213, Sacramento, CA 94244-2130. Comments may also be faxed to Dr. Palmer's attention at (916) 657-2388, or transmitted by e-mail to palmf@dwq.swrcb.ca.gov. if so desired (attach files in either Word 6.0/Windows 95 format).

To obtain a copy of the Ocean Plan or the staff report, contact Janice Hisao at the above address or by telephone at (916) 657-1114.

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